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REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on August 5, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. The Office Action imposed a restriction by requiring that Applicants elect one of Group I (Claims 2-9 and claims 16-23), Group II (Claims 10 and 24), Group III (Claims 11 and 25), Group IV (Claims 12 and 26) and Group V (Claims 13, 14 and 27-29). Applicants elect, without traverse, the claims of Group 1, i.e., Claims 2-9 and 16-23. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue claims of at least the scope of the non-elected claims (i.e., claims 10-14 and 24-29) in one or more related Applications.


Claims 2-9 and 16-23 are now pending in this Application. Claims 5 and 19 are independent claims and the remaining claims are dependent claims. In this Amendment, claims 10-14 and claims 24-29 have been cancelled. A version of the claims containing markings to show the changes made is included hereinabove. Applicant(s) believe that the claim(s) as presented are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is respectfully requested.

There is no fee required. If the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office deems a fee necessary, this fee may be charged to the account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

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If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: September 7, 2004